

## Quality ABA Treatment

What to look for:

1. Courteous, friendly, and respectful professionals, who encourage your questions and input.
2. Treatment is evidence based, ethical, and respects the dignity of the individual receiving services.
3. Direct staff are properly trained for their job, are clearly knowledgeable, and can discuss the treatment plan with you.
4. Program Supervisor is a BCBA, or overseen by a BCBA.
5. Data is regularly collected and reviewed, skill acquisition programs are regularly reviewed for mastery, maintenance, or revision.
6. Treatment successes and regressions are discussed with you regularly, you know what your child is learning, you know what behaviors are being reduced, and you have provided your consent for the specific strategies that are being implemented.
7. You are encouraged to participate in therapy, observe therapy sessions, and/or contribute your ideas and preferences to the treatment plan. If observing therapy sessions is too distracting to your child, you are encouraged to videotape or otherwise discreetly observe the therapy sessions. **Your input and participation is both requested, and welcome.**

What to avoid:

1. The professionals are condescending, rude, or at times disrespectful. Your questions are not answered and you are told to just let the professionals do their job. Either directly or indirectly, the impression is that you are in the way.
2. Treatment is a collection of tricks and strategies that have little or no empirical evidence demonstrating they are effective. Programming seems to be based on your child's diagnosis or age, and not on who they are as an individual. You feel that some goals are too advanced for your child, while other goals are far beneath them.
3. Direct staff seem disorganized, unprofessional, or unprepared for their role. They can't discuss the treatment plan with you, and only seem to know the goals on the data sheet. They don't understand behavior analytic terms (such as planned ignoring or generalization), and seem ill-equipped to teach your child.
4. There is no Program Supervisor, just direct staff. OR, the Program Supervisor is not a BCBA and is not overseen by a BCBA.
5. You rarely observe any data collection, note taking, or see the direct staff write anything down/record anything. During supervision sessions, the direct staff and Program Supervisor spend the time chatting or just watching your child rather than working.
6. You do not know what goals your child has, what skills are being taught, or if they have a Behavior Plan. You see strategies being implemented that you did not agree to, or that you have requested the staff stop using.
7. Your participation in, or observation of therapy sessions is discouraged, and you are told it would be too distracting to the direct staff or your child. No other discreet forms of observation are suggested. You are told you cannot conduct video or audio recording, even in your own home. You are discouraged from attending team meetings, and your ideas or suggestions are dismissed or

criticized. You are to “just let the professionals do their job”, and stay out of the way.